THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No such complaint has been received.

(b) Some incidents have come to notice. Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial & Vigilance Departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices.

देहरादून को ऋषिकेश से रेल लाइन से जोड़ने के लिये सर्वेक्षण

2316. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देहरादून को ऋषिकेश से सीधे रेल लाइन से जोड़ने हेतु एक सर्वेक्षण करवाया था;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि यह दूरी वर्तमान दूरी से आधी अर्थात् 30 किलोमीटर पड़ रही है;

(ग) क्या वर्ष 1997 की प्रथम छमाही तक सर्वेक्षण कार्य 50 प्रतिशत पूरा हो चुका था;

(घ) क्या वर्तमान में फील्ड कार्य पूरा हो चुका है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) इस योजना की कब तक स्वीकृति प्राप्त होने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) जी नहीं, लेकिन देहरादून से ऋषिकेश तक नई लाइन के सर्वेक्षण का काम हाथ में लिया गया है और इस समय प्रगति पर है;

(ख) देहरादून और ऋषिकेश के बीच की दूरी 52 कि०मी० है, जबकि सर्वेक्षणाधीन सीधे संपर्क के अनुसार यह दूरी 40 कि०मी० है।

(ग) जी नहीं, बहरहाल जून, 1997 तक लगभग 40% जमीनी काम पूरा हो चुका था।

(घ) जी हां, सर्वेक्षण रपट इकट्ठी की जा रही है।

(ङ) सर्वेक्षण रपट उपलब्ध हो जाने के बाद ही इस परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव हो सकेगा।

Direct Train between Tirupati and Shirdi

2317. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of tremendous traffic potential between Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and Shirdi in Maharastra;

(b) if so, whether a proposal to introduce a direct train between Tirupati and Shirdi is being considered by Government; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take for lakhs of rail passengers travelling between these two leading pilgrim centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY'S MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The traffic potential between Tirupati and Shirdi has been assessed and found inadequate to justify introduction of a train.

Retired Sr. Loco Inspectors of Northen Railways Jhansi

2318. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Sr. Loco Inspectors who retired on 31st October, 1994 from Northern Railway, Jhansi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have not refunded the future debit amount of these persons since then:

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the retired officials for refund of their future debit money;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(e) by when the amount would be refunded to them; if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY'S MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Only one Sr. Loco Inspector, namely Shri B.R. Kapoor, retired on 31-10-1994 from Jhansi which lies in the jurisdiction of Central Railways.

(b) An outstanding amount of Rs. 5,000/- towards electrical charges and Rs. 71,775/- as DCRG have been withheld for payment to Shri Kapoor due to his continued unauthorised occupation of Railway accommodation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Arrears towards stepping up of pay have already been paid to Shri Kapoor. The amount withheld towards electrical charges and DCRG can be refunded to the extent due only after adjusting the Railway dues, on vacation of the Railways accommodation by Shri Kapoor.

Computerised reservation centres under the Western Zone in Gujarat

2319. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to open more computerised reservation centres under the Western Zone in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) by when these centres are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY'S MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At seven locations viz. Vapi Jdhana, Alkapuri West(Vadodara), Palampur, Viramgam, Junagarh and Ankleshwar.

(c) By the end of next year.

Concession to Senior Citizens

2320. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new concessions to senior citizens have been announced;

(b) if so, what are these concessions and since when they have been extended; and

(c) what further facilities to senior citizens are under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY'S MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on Railway's Budget proposals for 1998-99, the element of concession admissible to senior citizen has been increased from 25% to 30% and this concession has been extended in Mail/Express fares of all classes and fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains. These